

*City of Taunton  
Office of the Mayor*



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Taunton, MA . . . Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell shared information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

"This is a hopeful time as we see the beginning of the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. After so much hardship this past year, it is reassuring to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The COVID-19 vaccine will help stem the tide of increasing numbers and give us a strong weapon to use in the fight against the coronavirus," said O'Connell.

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced a three-phase approach for the distribution of the vaccine. The Taunton Board of Health is working closely with the Department of Public Health as the plan for distribution is formulated.

The first phase in December through February will include vaccines being administered to health care workers, first responders, congregate care settings, and residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities. The second phase in February through April will include individuals with comorbidities, early education, K-12, transit, grocery, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, public health workers and adults 65 and over. In the third phase, estimated to occur in April through June, the vaccine will be available to the general public.

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, Morton Hospital received its first delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. Three members of their health care team were among the first in our city to be vaccinated.

The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It requires two doses. A second dose is administered three weeks after the first dose in order to provide the most protection. The COVID-19 vaccine will be provided to American citizens free of cost (with administration fees covered by health insurance or government subsidies).

"We are all hopeful that the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine will be a turning point in this pandemic. It is vital that everyone continues to wear face coverings, social distance, wash hands frequently, and avoid large gatherings. Our community has worked together in protecting ourselves, our families and our neighbors and we will continue to do so as we go through the process of vaccination," said Mayor O'Connell.

For updated COVID-19 information, please refer to, [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) and [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

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